

2005

The Challenge and Promise of Public Legal Education

Lauren K. Robel

Indiana University Maurer School of Law, lrobelt@indiana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/facpub>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Robel, Lauren K., "The Challenge and Promise of Public Legal Education" (2005). *Articles by Maurer Faculty*. 2792.
<https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/facpub/2792>

This Response or Comment is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Scholarship at Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles by Maurer Faculty by an authorized administrator of Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. For more information, please contact wattn@indiana.edu.



LAW LIBRARY
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington



INDIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
One Indiana Square, Suite 530
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317/639-5465 • 800/266-2581
317/266-2588 fax • isbaadmin@inbar.org
<http://www.inbar.org>

OFFICERS

President Clyde D. Compton, Merrillville
President-Elect James W. Riley Jr., Indianapolis
Vice President Richard S. Eynon, Columbus
Secretary Jan M. Carroll, Indianapolis
Treasurer Marianne M. Owen, Lafayette

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1st District Daniel B. Vinovich, Highland
2nd District Larry G. Evans, Valparaiso
3rd District Curtis T. Hill Jr., Elkhart
4th District Susan L. Firestone, Fort Wayne
5th District C. Michael Cord, Kokomo
6th District Leslie C. Henderzahn, Noblesville
7th District Maryann O. Williams, Spencer
8th District Brian K. Carroll, Evansville
9th District J. Mark Robinson, New Albany
10th District Mark R. McKinney, Muncie
11th District Michael P. Bishop, Indianapolis
11th District Stacy L. Kelley, Indianapolis
Past President Sherrill Wm. Colvin, Fort Wayne
House of Delegates Samuel J. Bernardi Jr., Chair, Valparaiso
House of Delegates Jeffrey A. Lind, Chair-Elect, Terre Haute
Young Lawyers Section Christopher C. Hagenow, Chair, Indianapolis
Counsel to the President Marisol Sanchez, Indianapolis

STAFF

Executive Director
Thomas A. Pyrz • tpyrz@inbar.org
Administrative Assistant
Shawnie Peterson • speterson@inbar.org
Associate Executive Director
Susan Jacobs • sjacobs@inbar.org
Administrative Assistant
Julie Gott • jgott@inbar.org
Director of Communications
Susan J. Ferrer • sferrer@inbar.org
Communications Assistant
Jennifer M. Infanger • jinfanger@inbar.org
Director of Section Services
Brita Horvath • bhorvath@inbar.org
Administrative Assistant
Barbara Mann • bmann@inbar.org
Director of Meetings & Events
Lacey Adams • ladams@inbar.org
Administrative Assistant
Kim Latimore • klatimore@inbar.org
Legislative & Public Affairs Counsel
Paje E. Felts • pfelts@inbar.org
State Pro Bono Coordinator
Monica Fennell • mfennell@inbar.org
Law-Related Education Coordinator
Erin E. Braun • ebraun@inbar.org
Bookkeeper & Convention Registrar
Sherry Allan • sallan@inbar.org
Membership Records, New Media & IT Coordinator
Melissa Fields • mfields@inbar.org
Receptionist
Chauncey Lipscomb • clipscomb@inbar.org

The challenge and promise of public legal education

Editor's Note: At the invitation of ISBA President Clyde D. Compton, Dean Lauren K. Robel, I.U. School of Law-Bloomington, is our guest "Perspective" columnist this month.

I am privileged to serve as dean of the oldest law school in our state, which means that, like all teachers, I spend my time thinking about the future. For more than 160 years, Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington has served as an exemplar of the values of public legal education, which include access to the profession and a deep and abiding belief that the citizens of our state deserve the services of lawyers with excellent skills, moral courage and high ethical values. The challenge that our faculty members face daily is connecting that vision of public legal education to the future of our profession; the challenge I face as dean is preserving the values of public legal education in an age of state fiscal scarcity.

Sometimes it helps to look back. The Law Department was announced in the 1841-42 Bloomington catalog, which stated that the design of the board of trustees was "nothing less than the building up of the Law School, that shall be inferior to none west of the Mountains; one in which the student will be so trained, that he shall never, in the attorney, forget the scholar, and the gentleman." The population of the entire state at that point was fewer than 700,000; and an historian described Indiana's challenges: "In 1841 [the state's] debt in its totality amounted to \$15,088,146; there was no prospect of any equivalent returns, and the affairs of the commonwealth generally were not such as to invite citizenship. Hence of the great tide of immigration pouring westward by way of the National Road much that might have stopped here passed on to regions farther west."¹ In such a fiscal climate, founding a public law school "inferior to none west of the Mountains" was an act of supreme faith.

Supporting such a school now is also an act of faith – faith in the value of public education, of the legal profession, and of the benefits that our profession brings to the state and the world. In some specific ways, those benefits have remained stable since the school was founded. Public legal education provides opportunities for the best and the brightest, no matter what their background, to become lawyers. As graduates, our students will still be entrusted with the most valued parts of their

clients lives – their children; the financial security of their elderly parents; their homes; the businesses their families have built; and the ones they hope to build. They will still be asked to protect our communities as prosecutors; to protect our freedoms as public defenders; and to protect as a matter of course our country's deepest commitments to constitutional values. They will be required to speak truth to power and to exercise judgment and courage on a daily basis. Practicing law was then and is now serious and important work, and legal educators still push bright minds to think better, harder and longer than they ever have before, and to take the responsibility for courageous advocacy seriously.

In other ways, the challenges our new graduates face could never have been anticipated by our school's founders, as visionary as they were. They will practice in a world where their business clients in any city in the state might be connected to distributors, manufacturers or customers from Paris to Beijing. The federal and state regulatory webs they will negotiate could hardly have been imagined by our founders, who lived in a state barely 26 years old. The interdisciplinarity of their work – the need to work closely with scientists, engineers, inventors and others – much less the notion that some fields of law require a Ph.D. as well as a J.D. would have been surprising. And the idea that lawyers trained in Indiana would be at the forefront of constitution drafting in Iraq, members of the judiciary of Thailand, law school professors in Taiwan, or business leaders in Germany would have been unimaginable. But these global connections to our state are as important in 2005 as convincing some of those travelers on the National Road to stop and invest in our state's future might have been in 1841.

(continued
on page 6)



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Lauren K. Robel
Dean and Val Nolan
Professor of Law
Indiana University
School of Law-Bloomington

CLE this month: new ethics rules

The new Indiana ethics rules are now in effect as of Jan. 1. What are the changes, and what do they mean to you as a practitioner? ICLEF, with special thanks to the ISBA's Legal Ethics Committee and the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, is pleased to present a 2-hour (ethics credit) CLE program all across Indiana to address the new rules.

Remaining dates and locations this month: March 17, Merrillville; March 18, South Bend; March 24, Evansville; and March 30, Terre Haute.

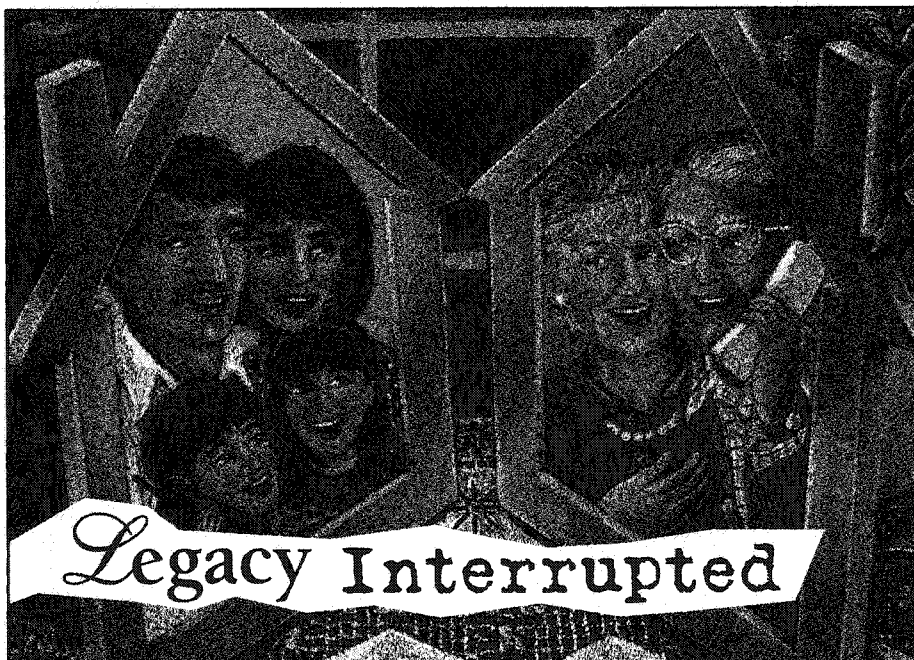
All programs start at 11 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. For a brochure and registration form, visit www.inbar.org or call ICLEF, 317/637-9102. ☪

PERSPECTIVE

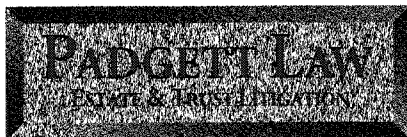
continued from page 5

And the challenges to the "public" part of legal education are strong. As the state faces fiscal demands from every quarter, it is good to be reminded that public legal education has, almost since statehood, been an important piece of Indiana's vision for its future and its citizens. The skills and judgment that lawyers trained in our state law schools bring to realizing our dreams about the future are still vitally important – whether they are new lawyers lured to the state through the excellence of the educational experience they can achieve here, or those who grew up here and take their knowledge of and affection for our state around the globe. Indiana deserves no less. ☪

I. George S. Cottman, *Centennial History and Handbook of Indiana* (1915).



Sometimes, estate or trust administration doesn't go smoothly. Achieving the final goals of a client or friend may require an aggressive and creative litigation strategy. Experienced counsel with a track record in this area can make the difference.



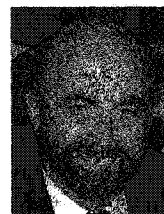
WILL CONTESTS

TRUST CONTESTS

ESTATE CLAIMS • ACCOUNTINGS • CONTESTED GUARDIANSHIPS
BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY • DETERMINATIONS OF HEIRSHIP

CALL GREG PADGETT
TOLL FREE 866.999.9455
www.IndianaEstateLaw.com

Available as Counsel or Co-Counsel throughout Indiana



Rod Taylor
CHRISTOPHER & TAYLOR
1219 North Delaware
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Tel: 317-635-9000
Fax: 317-686-2200
rodtaylor@abatelegal.com

PRACTICE AREAS:

- Motorcycle and Aviation Litigation
- Business Litigation
- Class Action Litigation

Rod Taylor practices in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio and the District of Columbia. AV rated; Preferred Lawyer List of Martindale-Hubbell, handling hundreds of cases throughout the United States, representing ABATE of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Motorcycle Riders Foundation and American Motorcyclist Association; with the following FAA pilot authorizations: Airline Transport, Commercial, Multi-instrument and Private; FAA Typed in jet aircrafts – CITATION I, CITATION II, BRAVO, CITATION V, CITATION VII; certified as an Airframe and Power Plant Mechanic No. 2835214. Founder and President of the Miracle Ride Foundation, creator of the Indianapolis Air Show and the Miracle Ride, raising more than \$2 million for Riley Hospital. Former Editor in Chief of *Indiana Law Review*.

Nominations sought for ISBA Board of Governors positions

Any member of the Indiana State Bar Association who desires to be considered for nomination to a vacancy on the Board of Governors should convey that interest to the chair of the Association's Nominating Committee.

Members who are nominated will face an election at the annual meeting of the Association Assembly to be held in Indianapolis in October, after which a two-year term will commence.

District vacancies for the term October 2005 through October 2007 are as follows:

District 1, representing Lake County;

District 4, representing Allen County;

District 5, representing the counties of Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Howard,

Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe, Warren and White;

District 10, representing the counties of Adams, Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Huntington, Jay, Madison, Miami, Randolph, Tipton, Wabash, Wayne and Wells; and

District 11, representing Marion County.

Letters of interest and résumés, not longer than two pages in length

(with information as to leadership positions or other activity within the State Bar as well as other affiliations), should be sent to John D. Proffitt, Chair, ISBA Nominating Committee, Indiana State Bar Association, One Indiana Square, Suite 530, Indianapolis, IN 46204. The deadline for receipt is April 4. ☞

Child Support Software Indiana SUPPORT MASTER™

- ✓ Parenting Time Credit Worksheet
- ✓ Calculates Child Support
- ✓ Prints Worksheets
- ✓ Handles Large Incomes
- ✓ College Worksheets
- ✓ Subsequent Children
- ✓ Medical Expenses
- ✓ Interest and Arrearage Calculator

Professional Software Corporation

Fast, accurate support calculations since 1989

309 Main St. voice 812/833-3781
POB 716 fax 812/838-9445
Mount Vernon
IN 47620 mhawley@bamberger.com

www.supportmastersoftware.com

SERIOUS ATTORNEYS FOR SERIOUS INJURIES



Personal injury and wrongful death cases resulting from fires & explosions often turn on the ability to re-construct them. We have a 30-member team of investigators, attorneys, paralegals, and staff with significant experience in fires & explosions, including those involving lighters, natural gas, chemicals, service stations, tankers, motor vehicles, and personal watercraft. We also have state-of-the-art video & computer modeling capabilities. We're ready to work with you and your clients on a referral or co-counsel basis. All you have to do is call 1-800-525-8028.

Indianapolis
2859 N. Meridian
1-317-920-6400
www.wkw.com

Richmond
2901 E. Main
1-765-962-9113

Muncie
3620 N. Everbrook Lane
Suite A
1-765-284-2474

- Brain or Spinal Cord Injuries
- Medical Malpractice Injuries
- Fire or Explosion Injuries
- Products Liability Injuries
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Aviation Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Other Personal Injury & Wrongful Death Accidents

**WILSON
KEHOE &
WININGHAM**

Serious Attorneys for Serious Injuries